



State Of California

SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor



Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Meeting
October 13, 2005
State Capitol, Room 444
Sacramento, California

Lawrence Klein
*Utilities
Chairman*

Dr. Lucy Jones
Seismology

Andrew Adelman
*Cities/Building
Official*

Hon. Richard Alarcon
State Senate

Chris Modrzejewski
Senate Representative

Mark Church
Local Government

Dr. Bruce Clark
Geology

Hon. Carol Liu
State Assembly

Donald Manning
*Assembly
Representative*

Celestine Palmer
Insurance

Daniel Shapiro
*Structural
Engineering*

Keith Wheeler
Emergency Services

Gary McGavin
*Architectural
Planning*

Jeff Sedivec
Fire Protection

Dennis Mileti
(Social Services)

Kandiah Arulmoli
(Soils Engineer)

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director

Members Participating

Lawrence T. Klein, Chair
Andrew Adelman
Kandiah (Arul) Arulmoli
Mark Church
Don Manning
Gary McGavin
Daniel Shapiro
Lucy Jones

Members Absent

Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Bruce Clark
Dennis Mileti
Celestine Palmer
Jeff Sedivec
Keith Wheeler

Staff Participating

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Karen Cogan, Executive Assistant
Henry Reyes, Staff Structural Engineer
Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman Lawrence Klein at 10:02 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and stated that a quorum was not present.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

New Commissioners

Chairman Klein welcomed the Commission's two newest members, Commissioner Kandiah Arulmoli and Commissioner Dennis Mileti.

Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety: Spanish Edition

Dr. Guna Selvaduray, Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation, thanked Commissioner Dan Shapiro and other reviewers for their assistance in editing the Spanish-language version of the *Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety*.

ACTION: Commissioner Adelman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mark Church, that:

The Commission approve the Spanish translation of the Homeowner's Guide, subject to additional revisions as discussed, and authorize its publication.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

Committee Assignments

Chairman Klein drew attention to the committee roster in the meeting packet. He proposed adding Commissioner Arulmoli to the PEER Review Committee, the Tsunami Committee, and the SCEC Committee; adding Commissioner Jeff Sedevic to the Legislative Advisory Committee, Emergency Planning and Response/Recovery Committee, and the Education and Outreach Committee; adding Commissioner Keith Wheeler to the Emergency Planning and Response/Recovery Committee; and adding Commissioner McGavin to the Legislative Advisory Committee and SCEC Committee, and appointing Commissioner McGavin to represent the Commission on the State Historical Building Safety Board. He welcomed other suggestions.

Commissioner Jones noted that Chairman Klein should take over as chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, and she offered to stay on the committee as a member.

Commissioner Adelman offered to join the Planning and Budget Committee and the Legislative Advisory Committee.

Other Items

Chairman Klein noted the next meeting will be held on November 10 in San Francisco, and one of the major agenda items will be review of the latest Hetch Hetchy improvement plans.

Ms. Cogan advised that the location of the November meeting will be the Serrano Hotel on Taylor Street. She said she would provide commissioners with more details about the meeting arrangements later.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2005 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner McGavin pointed out the date at the top of Page 1 is incorrect, and Commissioner Wheeler should be listed as present.

ACTION: Commissioner McGavin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Manning, that:

The Commission approve the minutes of the September 8, 2005 meeting as amended.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

Under "Commission Funding Strategies" on the next-to-last page, Commissioner Adelman suggested changing the references to the "7-cent tax" to "7-cent surcharge." Other commissioners concurred.

IV. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Shapiro noted the Commission needs a new vice chair because former Commissioner Don Parker was not reappointed, and Commissioner Klein moved from vice chair to chair. He said the Nominating Committee lost one member when Commissioner Stan Moy left, and the committee will have a report at the November meeting. Commissioner Shapiro recommended reconstituting the committee and charging the committee with proposing a new vice chair.

Chairman Klein requested that the committee meet and nominate a vice chair.

Commissioner Shapiro said the Nominating Committee consists of previous Commission chairs, and he recommended adding Commissioner Jones to the committee roster. Chairman Klein appointed Commissioner Jones to serve as a member.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

Executive Director Richard McCarthy explained that the Commission's monthly budget reports reflect two different accounting methods, one used by Contracted Fiscal Services (CFS), the state entity that handles accounting functions for the Commission, and the other calculated by the staff.

Budget Change Proposals

Mr. McCarthy reported that the staff submitted two budget change proposals (BCP's) for Fiscal Year 2006-07, one requesting a \$10,000 one-time augmentation to cover office relocation costs plus an additional \$5,000 per year for office rent, and the other requesting \$17,000 in 2006-07 and \$14,000 in 2007-08 to improve the Commission's information technology capabilities. He said both BCP's were submitted by the mid-September deadline, and the staff will provide more details at the November meeting.

Website Update

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the Website usage statistics provided in the meeting packet. He noted the Commission's Website is averaging about 125,000 hits per month. He said there were over 10,000 downloads of the *Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety* in September alone, and over 44,000 downloads since May.

FEMA Appeal

Mr. Fred Turner reported that the staff has been reviewing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) responses to the Commission's Freedom of Information Act document requests, and it appears much of the information FEMA provided is new.

Commercial Property Owner's Guide to Earthquake Safety Update

Mr. Turner noted the 1998 edition of the *Commercial Property Owner's Guide to Earthquake Safety* needs to be updated. In preparation for the revision, the staff converted the text of the document into the

format used for the *Homeowner's Guide*. He drew attention to the document provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Turner recommended establishing a committee to help the staff update the publication. He proposed including Commissioners Adelman, Arulmoli, Clark, McGavin, and Shapiro, along with representatives from the California Association of Realtors, California Geological Survey, Department of Insurance, and Department of Real Estate. He estimated revision process will take three to six months.

Chairman Klein asked Commissioner McGavin to chair the group. Commissioner McGavin and the other proposed members accepted the assignment. Commissioner Adelman offered to provide the group with some materials developed by the City of Los Angeles.

SFPUC Water System Improvement Program Review Committee

Mr. McCarthy noted SFPUC representatives will make a presentation at the Commission's November 10 meeting regarding proposed changes in their Hetch Hetchy capital improvement projects and their impacts on seismic safety. He said once the revised program is approved by the SFPUC in late November, the Seismic Safety Commission will have 90 days to review and comment to the Governor and Legislature on the potential seismic safety impacts. He observed that delays in the work schedule could produce short-term increases in seismic risk, but they may also have long-term benefits, so the Commission needs to carefully weigh those tradeoffs.

Commissioner Church volunteered to serve on the review committee. He noted the Hetch Hetchy water system is critically important for all Bay Area water users.

Letter to Superintendent of Schools

Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission previously expressed concern that many school districts in the state were not requesting school survey information from the Division of the State Architect due to liability concerns. Legal advisors indicated schools were already immune from liability, and DSA released the list. Mr. McCarthy suggested revising the draft letter to reflect this development and sending it to State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell and other groups.

ACTION: Commissioner McGavin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shapiro, that:

The Commission authorize the staff to revise and send the letter as proposed.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

OES Grant/MOU Proposal

Mr. McCarthy noted that the Seismic Safety Commission, working with the California Geological Survey, helped draft the seismic chapter in the state's multi-hazard plan, which was later certified by FEMA. OES is now submitting a grant proposal to FEMA that calls for refining the tracking document the Commission developed earlier to monitor progress on the initiatives contained in the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*. Mr. McCarthy said OES proposes to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Seismic Safety Commission to produce the refinements.

Commissioner McGavin asked if the California Research Assistance Fund (CRAF) settlement funds could be used for mitigation research of this type. Mr. McCarthy replied that use of the funds is restricted to “earthquake research,” but that definition had not yet been determined. He estimated the Commission could eventually receive \$5 million or so from the settlement.

Mr. McCarthy added that one obstacle to the Commission’s ability to obtain grants is its uncertain future, especially in light of the Governor’s veto of AB 1374.

Legislation

Mr. McCarthy referred to the written report in the meeting packet. He said the Governor’s veto of AB 1374, which would have extending the Commission’s funding arrangement with the Department of Insurance, puts the Commission’s long-term security in doubt.

VI. PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Press Releases on Effects of Hurricane Katrina and Homeowner’s Guide

Ms. Cogan drew attention to the press releases responding to Hurricane Katrina and announcing availability of the revised *Homeowner’s Guide to Earthquake Safety* and emphasizing preparedness.

Fleet Week

Ms. Cogan said OES and the City and County of San Francisco held an Earthquake Awareness and Preparedness Fair on October 8 and 9 in conjunction with the Fleet Week celebration in San Francisco. She noted the focus was on interactive exhibits and demonstrations, and the Seismic Safety Commission provided a shake table for the event.

Preparedness Day

Ms. Cogan reported that she attended the OES Preparedness Day education fair on September 20 in Sacramento. She noted First Lady Maria Shriver attended and was an excellent spokesperson to promote disaster preparedness.

Quake ’06 Information

Ms. Cogan stated that San Francisco’s Fleet Week celebration was the kickoff for a series of events and special exhibits marking the anniversary of the 1906 earthquake. She drew attention to the materials in the meeting packet for more details about the plans.

Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission contributed \$5,000 to the Quake ’06 Alliance for publication of a newspaper insert. He said groups like EERI, Disaster Resistant California, and the Seismological Society of America will be putting on a mega-conference next April at the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

Mr. McCarthy suggested inviting Ms. Mary Lou Zoback and Ms. Susan Tubessing to the November meeting to provide an update on the Quake ’06 plans.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tsunami Committee Report

Commissioner Jones drew attention to the executive summary and draft report in the meeting packet. She said Mr. Rich Eisner suggested adding multi-language information for visitors and tourists, and she recommended including that point under the education section. Commissioner Jones said the committee plans to refine the report and present it to the Commission for review at the November meeting.

LUNCH RECESS

At 11:56 a.m., the meeting was recessed for lunch. Chairman Klein reconvened the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

VIII. PRESENTATION BY CALIFORNIA'S URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM: HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA EXPERIENCE

Commissioner Manning introduced Assistant Fire Chief Greg West, Los Angeles Fire Department. He said Chief West was deployed to the Gulf Coast as part of an urban search and rescue (USAR) team dispatched to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. He noted Chief West served as operations commander in several recent fires in southern California, and he congratulated Chief West for his achievements.

Chief West described California's USAR teams and resources. He said team members are trained in command, planning, search, rescue, logistics, and medical response. He noted there are three levels of USAR teams: Type 1, with heavy equipment; Type 3, with light rescue equipment; and a swift-water rescue force.

Chief West showed a series of slides taken during his Gulf Coast deployment. He said California Task Force 1 endured a 36-hour drive to a staging area in Dallas, and was then dispatched to Mississippi. Along the way, the team encountered many obstacles, including downed trees and power lines, power outages, fuel and water shortages, horrible traffic, bad weather, scarcity of cash, and unhealthy conditions.

Chief West reported that his team was involved in three missions, including clearing and removal of debris from buildings damaged by a casino barge that broke loose and landed inland, assisting a light task force from Oakland search a heavily damaged neighborhood, and surveying bayous and backwater areas and helping people in need. He added that swift-water rescue teams played an important role in rescuing stranded people in New Orleans.

Chief West praised the leadership of the Biloxi Fire Department. He noted it was fortunate the California USAR teams had enough supplies for 12 days of self-sufficiency. He said key problems were infrastructure failures, slow response times, transportation difficulties, and lack of support in the face of overwhelming damage and devastation.

Mr. McCarthy proposed reconvening the USAR Committee to review their report recommendations and make modifications.

Fire Chief Rick Martinez, Sacramento Metro Fire Department, stated that he had spent 31 years in fire service and had responded to many disasters, including the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York. He said the devastation from Hurricane Katrina was widespread, like earthquake damage, but the disaster dwarfed the World Trade Center event because of

the many difficult challenges facing the Gulf Coast. He noted electricity outages meant gas stations could not operate, so people were not able to drive away. In addition, roads were widely damaged and miles of train tracks moved as a result of the storm surge. Chief Martinez observed that there was no communication, no sewer service, no drinking water, so conditions deteriorated rapidly. He said that even if cell towers remained standing, their batteries go dead, and fuel for generators runs out, delaying calls for help.

Chief Martinez said one problem facing responders to a large disaster area is the limited number of debris-free areas available for staging and sheltering purposes. He noted local and state response agencies were not well prepared to handle the situation, demonstrating a need for more training and experience.

Chief Martinez suggested combining USAR and medical services operations to provide better stopgap relief. He recommended that the USAR Committee look at ways of breaking into smaller groups for the first wave of relief efforts, and he advocated using the National Guard.

Commissioner Jones recommended sifting through the lessons learned to extract recommendations for California.

Commissioner Jones recommended that the Commission support earthquake public awareness projects.

Chairman Klein thanked Chief Martinez for his presentation.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Commission.

X. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF THE MEETING

There were no other items brought to the attention of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director